

2007 Fact Sheet

Profiles of Families with Children Enrolled
in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Family Profiles Highlights

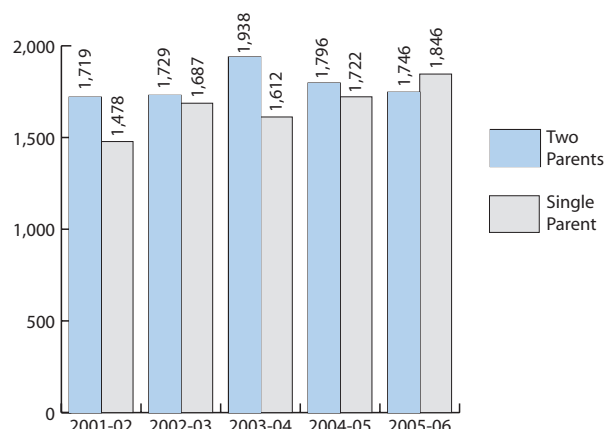
- Single parents head about half of all Head Start families
- Most Head Start parents are employed
- Most Head Start families have parents with a high school education and beyond
- Most Head Start families obtain parenting and health services
- Over one-third of enrolled children have fathers involved in Head Start activities



Single Parents Head About Half of All Head Start Families

Information on types of families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start was first collected in 2001. In 2005-06, single-parent families became a little over half of all families served by Head Start in North Dakota. In 2005-06, 49% of North Dakota Head Start families were headed by two parents. In contrast, according to the 2000 Census, married couples constituted about 77% of all families with their own children younger than age 6 in North Dakota, while single parents comprised the remainder.

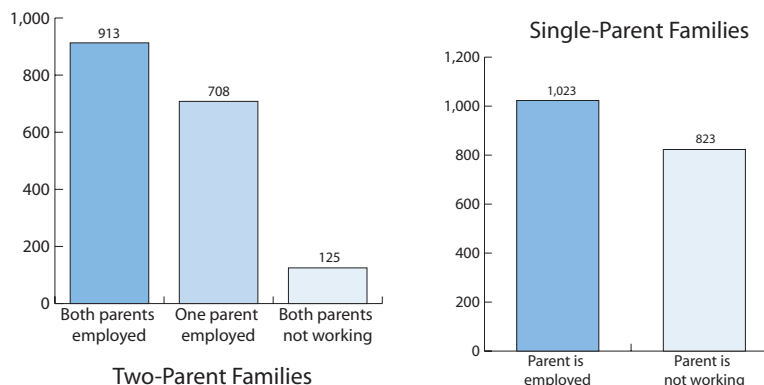
Figure 1. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type, 2001-2006



Most Head Start Parents Are Employed

Most parents who have children in North Dakota Head Start programs are employed, whether in single-parent or two-parent households. These families are part of the "working poor" in our state. In 2005-06, both parents were employed in 52% of two-parent homes and an additional 41% had one parent employed. In 7% of two-parent Head Start families, both parents were not working due to either unemployment, retirement, or disability. In contrast, 55% of single parents with children in Head Start programs were employed and 45% were not working.

Figure 2. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type and Parental Employment Status, 2005-06



Data Source and Note:
Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 2001-2006. In this fact sheet, guardians are included in data on parents.

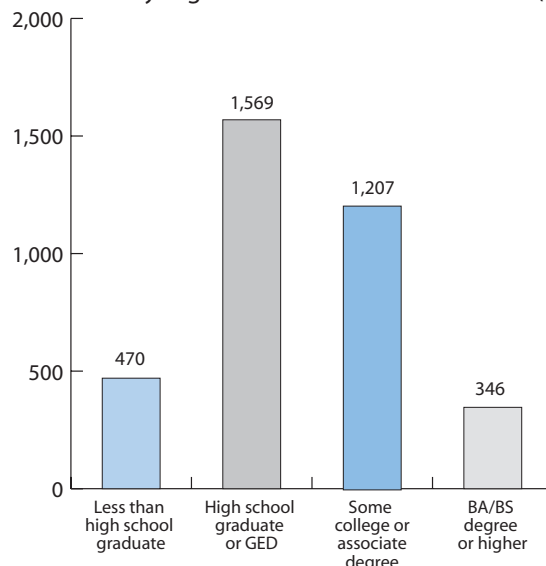
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Most Head Start Families Have Parents with a High School Education and Beyond

Most families who have children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs have parents with a high school education and beyond. In 2005-06, 44% of families contained a parent whose highest education level attained was a high school diploma or GED. In 34% of families, the highest level of parental education was some college or an associate degree and in 10% of families the highest level attained was a bachelor's or advanced degree.

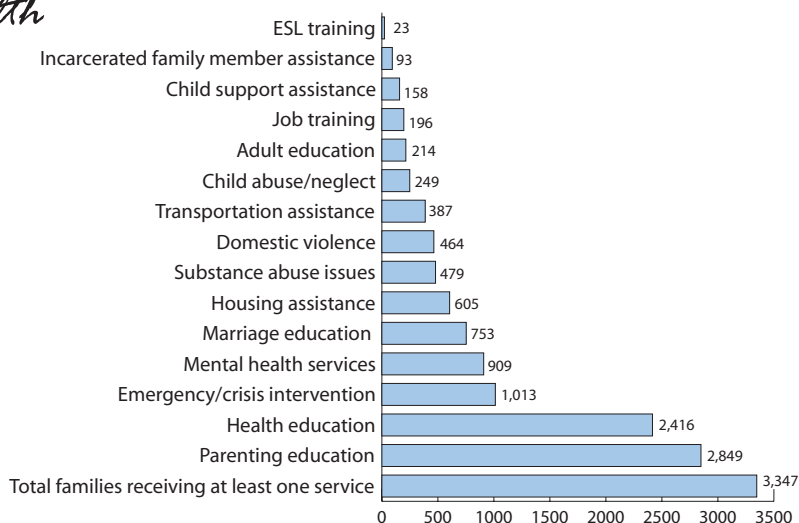
Figure 3. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Highest Education Level of Parent(s), 2005-06



Most Head Start Families Obtain Parenting and Health Services

Families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs often deal with numerous personal and familial issues which require assistance or services, such as emergency help or mental health services. The majority (67%) of Head Start families received health (including prenatal) education and benefited from parenting education services (79%). The vast majority (93%) of all North Dakota Head Start families obtained services during 2005-06.

Figure 4. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Type of Service Received, 2005-06



Over One-Third of Enrolled Children Have Fathers Involved in Head Start Activities

North Dakota Head Start Programs began recording father involvement in 2001-02. Participation reached a high in 2003-04, when 37% of Head Start children had fathers/father figures participating in organized and regularly scheduled activities designed to involve fathers in Head Start programs. After a drop off in participation in 2004-05, enrollment year 2005-06 resulted in 35% of all Head Start children (N=1,366) having fathers/father figures involved in these activities. During 2005-06, 16 of the 21 Head Start programs in the state offered these activities for fathers/father figures.

Figure 5. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Whose Fathers/Father Figures Participated in Activities, 2001-2006

